

Page 9

Serial No. 09/693,117

Applicants: Lynn David Bollinger, et al.

Remarks

This amendment after Final Rejection is presented after discussion with the Examiner over the telephone during which the heating and cooling rates present in Claim 13 were to be incorporated in claim 1.

In addition the specification has been changed to what was originally filed with some very minor exceptions such as the value for ρ in the specific example following equation 16. This should remove any basis for the new matter rejection. Again Applicants wish to note that the material on these specification pages is intended to provide a mathematical model and to provide an explanation for the invention of processing a wafer with a hot gas while relying upon a quenching of the heat imparted to the wafer surface by the hot gas from the cooler bulk material of the wafer. Thus the essence of the teaching of the specification of utilizing a high powered hot gas stream to treat a wafer while establishing a temperature differential throughout the thickness of the wafer to quench has not been changed.

The Examiner questioned the term "effectively" as used in claim 1. This term was included to make sure that the claim would explicitly cover the equivalent step of moving the hot stream relative to the wafer. Although it is less practical to move the hot gas stream instead of the wafer, it is theoretically possible. Applicant is willing to drop this term from the claim, though it is submitted that this should not be necessary to make the claim clear.

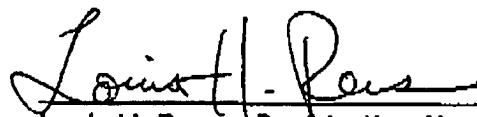
Page 10

Serial No. 09/693,117

Applicants: Lynn David Bollinger, *et al.*

In view of this amendment it is submitted that no additional issues remain in the case and withdrawal of the Final Rejection and early favorable allowance of all the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis H. Reens, Registration No. 22,588
Stephen P. McNamara, Registration No. 32,745
Attorney for Applicants
ST.ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC
986 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905-5619
203 324-6155